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LETTER DATED 8 MAY 1995 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF CROATIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to inform you that the Croatian Government proposed to the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Mr. Yasushi Akashi, that the representatives of the Croatian Army meet with the representatives of the Serbian paramilitary forces from the occupied territories under his auspices, in order to defuse the tensions in the zones of separation of former Sectors South, North and East.

With regard to the situation in Western Slavonia, I would like to draw your attention to the fact that the diplomatic corps has today joined the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Croatia, Mr. Mate Granic, in touring the area. All efforts are being made to normalize life in the liberated territories: the Zagreb-Vinkovci railway line has reopened, the radio station at Okučani is operating and schools are open; health, medical and social insurance has been extended to all the citizens in Western Slavonia; a one-time individual financial grant to help all persons in need in the liberated territories has been appropriated by the Government; further grants and loans for rebuilding of destroyed property are being prepared.

The competent authorities of the Croatian Government have in total detained 1,474 suspected members of Serbian paramilitary forces after the liberation of the occupied territory in Western Slavonia. They have been taken, under supervision of the European Union Monitoring Mission (EUMM) and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), to three processing centres in the adjacent areas: Varaždin, Požega and Bjelovar, for registration and questioning.

As of 1000 hours local time today, criminal investigative process against 105 of them has been initiated; 554 have been released, and the Abolition Act has been applied to them; a total of 816 remain in Varaždin and Bjelovar. The detention centre in Požega has been closed. Law enforcement authorities continue their processing of the remaining suspected members of Serbian paramilitary forces in the continued presence of EUMM, UNCRO and ICRC, and are expected to complete their task within several days.

The Republic of Croatia remains committed to the full and speedy implementation of the mandate of UNCRO, aimed at peaceful reintegration of the occupied territories into Croatia. In this regard, we remain ready to continue negotiation on the implementation of the relevant Security Council resolution with the representatives of the local authorities in Knin.

I would kindly request your assistance in distributing this letter as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Mario NOBILO
Permanent Representative